

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 THE HA 03888 191144Z

46 L  
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 SS-15 NSC-05

SP-02 PM-04 INR-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /074 W  
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R 191111Z JUL 76  
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8577  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
USMISSION USUN

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 3888

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, KS, UR  
SUBJ: ROK-SOVIET DIALOGUE

REF: THE HAGUE 3057

1. AT REQUEST OF ROK AMB CHOI, WITH WHOM AMB GOULD HAS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP, AMB BROUGHT HIM TOGETHER WITH SOVIET AMB ROMANOV, ALSO A PERSONAL FRIEND, OVER LUNCH A TROIS AT RESIDENCE JULY 15. ALTHOUGH CONTACT BETWEEN THE TWO DIPLOMATS HAD BEEN LIMITED TO SHAKING HANDS ONCE DURING PRIOR TWO YEARS, LUNCHEON TOOK PLACE IN A FRIENDLY RELAXED ATMOSPHERE. SIGNIFICANT ELEMENTS OF WIDE RANGING CONVERSATION ARE REPORTED BELOW; DETAILED MEMCON BEING POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES.

2. IN RESPONSE TO CHOI'S QUESTION ABOUT VISIT OF NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION TO THE HAGUE WHICH TOOK PLACE LAST SPRING, ROMANOV SAID THAT WHILE HIS EMBASSY HAD NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH THEM, HE UNDERSTOOD THROUGH A DUTCH SOURCE THAT THE NORTH KOREANS HAD STATED THAT THEY FEARED AN IMMINENT OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES, WHICH THEY IMPLIED COULD EASILY ESCALATE INTO WORLD WAR III SINCE JAPAN WOULD SURELY BECOME INVOLVED. SUCH STATEMENTS, ROMANOV CONTINUED, HE FOUND RIDICULOUS FOR OBVIOUSLY THE ROK WAS NOT GOING TO START MILITARY ACTION. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT SOVIET-NORTH KOREAN RELATIONS WERE VERY POOR AND THAT THE

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SOVIETS WERE HAVING DIFFICULTY MAKING ANY SENSE OUT OF RECENT

KIM PRONOUNCEMENTS.

3. AFTER CHOI STATED THAT THE ROK FAVORED UNCONDITIONAL BILATERAL TALKS WITH THE NORTH, ROMANOV ENDORSED THE CONCEPT SAYING THAT TWENTY YEARS OF COLD WAR WERE ENOUGH AND THAT NEW SOLUTIONS SHOULD BE FOUND FOR OLD PROBLEMS. AT ONE POINT ROMANOV LIKENED THE KOREAN SITUATION TO THAT OF THE TWO GERMANIES.

4. AT THE CONCLUSION OF LUNCHEON, WHICH LASTED OVER TWO HOURS, ROMANOV ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE CHOI'S SUGGESTION THAT THE THREE MEET AGAIN SOON.

5. COMMENT: AS ROMANOV MAINTAINS A GENIAL, TALKATIVE, HAIL FELLOW WELL MET FACADE, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER HIS FRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARDS HIS SOUTH KOREAN COLLEAGUE PORTENDS ANYTHING MORE THAN HIS PERSONAL REACTION.  
BROWN

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